

Automated Content and Software Distribution System

ABSTRACT

A new use for an application program installer, such as the Microsoft Windows Software Installer (MSI) Application, which is operable to install an application program and rollback an installation if it appears unsuccessful, and a backup-restore application program, such as such as Tivoli Backup™, which is operable to backup and restore a configuration of a machine. An update for altering network resources of a customer being hosted on one or more hosting servers of a hosting service is provided. A first server of the hosting servers is selected. A starting configuration of the first server is backed up. The application program installer is utilized to apply the update to the network resources of the customer on the first server. A determination may be made whether to restore the starting configuration of the first server with the backup-restore application program. Thus, in contrast with its normal operational use as an application program installer, MSI or equivalent software can be configured to apply upgrades, e.g., patches, etc., to the network resources of the customer, and Tivoli or equivalent software may be used to recover from defective upgrades, such as errors due to improper operation of the network resources.